

the sacrifices veterans have made for the United States.

On March 13, 1947, the Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars approved the charter submitted to it, and the VFW Post 8896 officially existed. The men who were a part of this organization were strong and self-reliant; they raised funds and worked themselves to build a suitable place for meetings. The men who constructed this structure did so in their spare time, often after a long day of work. Many times they labored well into the night to complete the structure.

Post 8896 quickly became an important part of the community in East Berlin, PA. Throughout the past 50 years, its members have been actively involved in making their town a better place to live. Both they and the man that the post honors serve as reminders for the community at large: One for making the supreme sacrifice for his country during war, and the others for their service to the United States, and the values it holds important.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognition of VFW Post 8896's anniversary. I am proud to say that I am a member of this post. I salute my fellow veterans for 50 years of service, and wish them at least another 50.

#### HONORING ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF THE EASTSIDE

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating the chartering of Assistance League of the Eastside [ALE] in Redmond, WA, as the 98th chapter of the National Assistance League. For 8 years Assistance League of the Eastside has existed to develop and carry out philanthropic projects to meet the needs of the greater eastside community. This all-volunteer, nonprofit organization has made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of needy citizens with programs that are tailored to meet real-world emergencies. For example, Operation School Bell has provided more than 1,000 at-risk children with new clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items. Victims of rape and assault have benefited from the Assistance League's dissemination of assault survivor kits, a program that provides sweat suits and personal care items to those seeking refuge from an aggressor. And the ALE's caring and sharing program has brightened the lives of senior citizens at the Emerald Heights assisted living facility in Redmond by providing birthday and holiday parties for the residents. ALE, through the efforts of its 65 very active and good-hearted members, is making a difference in ways that go far beyond the capabilities of government programs because the volunteers are impelled by compassion for their fellow eastsiders. That spirit deserves not only recognition, but commendation and celebration. America needs more people like the citizens who devote their spare time to the many good projects of Assistance League of the Eastside.

Therefore it is fitting that today, as ALE gains chapterhood status with the National Assistance League based on compliance with

that organization's bylaws, policies, and standards, I am proud to draw the attention of the House of the great work of this organization. And I am honored to join Redmond Mayor Rosemarie Ives in setting aside March 12, 1997, as a day to honor Assistance League of the Eastside. I join Mayor Ives in urging all citizens of Washington State to recognize this all-volunteer organization and encourage its continued philanthropic work benefiting our eastside community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MUSIC EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the students and teachers of Washington State for their accomplishments in the area of music education in our State. Research shows that music is an important tool for building a more creative and intelligent populace and music study helps students to perform better in academic and social settings. March is Music in Our Schools Month and an appropriate time to pay tribute to the students, parents, and teachers in our State who work diligently throughout the year to call attention to the importance of music education in our schools.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Grass Lake Elementary School in Kent, WA, for their contribution to the Music Educator's 13th Annual World's Largest Concert which will be shown nationwide. The hard work and dedication of the individuals involved with this project deserve recognition for their important efforts for bringing attention to music education in our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, as you all are aware, over the past week, the Midwest has experienced devastating flood waters. Because of these floods, major portions of the Sixth Congressional District of Ohio have been declared a Federal disaster area. To help the people back home, I remained in the district last week and therefore missed the following votes:

Wednesday, March 5, 1997: Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 29, House Concurrent Resolution 17, the Guatemalan Peace Process; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 30, House Concurrent Resolution 18, the Nicaraguan Democratic Elections; and "nay" on Rollcall Vote 31, House Concurrent Resolution 31, Display of the Ten Commandments.

Thursday, March 6, 1997: "yea" on Rollcall Vote 32, Motion to Adjourn; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 33, the Journal; "yea" on Rollcall Vote 34, Washington, DC, City Council Contract Reform; and "yea" on Rollcall Vote 35, Motion to Adjourn.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LA PORTE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the good work of the La Porte Education Foundation and to congratulate foundation members as they prepare for the fourth annual Education Celebration Event on March 13, 1997. The foundation's efforts to improve educational opportunities are forging a stronger community today and building a brighter future for our children.

The foundation's mission is to strengthen the La Porte community through education. A nonprofit organization operating separately from the La Porte School System, the foundation funds innovative, creative, and instructional projects for both students and teachers in La Porte schools.

The La Porte Education Foundation was established in 1993 because the community understood that there is a strong linkage between the quality of life in La Porte and the quality of its education system. Its organizers understand that, sometimes, the best way to meet a challenge is to roll up your sleeves and get involved.

The foundation's endowment has provided a steady, new source of funds outside the general revenue fund for expanding the educational opportunities available to La Porte's students. And it has worked.

The La Porte Foundation Board decided early on that the entire community needed to be actively involved in the foundation's efforts to enhance education in La Porte schools. As a means to involve citizens, the board chose to sponsor an event which would celebrate public education in La Porte on an annual basis. The first celebration was held at Sylvan Beach Pavilion and was developed and presented by a foundation committee consisting of teachers, community members, PTO and area industry representatives, and foundation board members. The first celebration was an overwhelming success with over 1,000 citizens enjoying booths from each school and entertainment from many students.

The second annual celebration was moved to La Porte High School to accommodate large crowds. Now in the fourth year, this year's celebration will highlight grant projects by LPISD teachers which were funded by the foundation. This unique event continues to draw enthusiastic crowds numbering over 1,000 each year.

I wish the foundation continued success as they celebrate another Education Celebration Event and continue their mission to improve the education and lives of the children of La Porte.

#### THE DEFENSE JOBS AND TRADE PROMOTION ACT OF 1997

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 1997*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CRANE, Ms. DUNN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HAYWORTH,